TRAFFIC BRANCH

(Report by Superintendent J. Hyde, Officer-in-charge of the Traffic Section)

363 164 **Vehicles.** During the year 1372, there was a 32,8 per cent. increase over the previous year in the registration of motor vehicles, bringing the total to 2,822, at the end of the year.

682 672 **Accidents.** There was an increase in road accidents. The total for the year was 142, 27.9 per cent. more than in 1371. Unfortunately, there were ten fatalities as compared with four for the previous year, the highest since 1364. The number of persons seriously injured was 29, an increase of 20.

Thirty-nine pedestrians were involved, three more than in the previous year. Of these, 12 were children of 15 years or under. There were three fatalities with children, including a girl aged 3 years. The only other female casualty was a child aged 6 years, who was injured.

One hundred and fifteen of the total accidents occurred during the day, the remainder, 27, were during the hours of darkness.

Of the fatal accidents, three occurred on the Awal Road, one at night. One near Manama Bus Station, one behind the West Primary School, Manama, one near Ahmedi's Ice Factory, Manama, one near Muharraq Petrol Station (during darkness), one inside the R.A.F. Camp and one on the Sitra Causeway.

Eight cases were taken to Court. In three cases, the drivers were found not to blame.

One cases is still pending.

Five motor-cycles, 11 pedal cycles and six donkey carts were involved in accidents during the year.

Fifty-five cases were prosecuted in the Courts as a result of accidents. In ten cases the persons were acquitted.

363 681 **Traffic Offences.** One hundred and twenty-eight traffic offences were taken to the Courts. The total fines amounted to Rs. 19,896/-. In four cases the offenders were sentenced to terms of imprisonment.

Thirty-two driving licences were suspended for various traffic offences.

PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES

494 **Taxi Cabs and Buses.** There was a considerable increase in the number of these vehicles, especially taxi cabs.

It becomes more difficult each year to provide stands for taxi cabs, and it will soon be necessary to restrict their number.

Arrangements are in hand to fit all taxi cabs with fare meters.

Driving Tests. One thousand three hundred and fifty-four driving tests were carried out during the year. Five hundred and twenty-three passed the required standard.

1 [A.D. 1952-1953 -- Annual ET]